

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A running board assembly for a motor vehicle, said running board assembly comprising:
  - a step defining a tank for storing a supply of pressurized fluid;
  - a compressor fluidly connected to said tank;
  - a mounting assembly extending between said step and the motor vehicle for mounting said running board assembly on said vehicle enabling movement of said step between a retracted position and an extended position; [[and]]
  - a pneumatic cylinder operatively engaging said mounting assembly, whereby energizing said pneumatic cylinder effects said movement of said step; and
  - wherein said tank has a pressure sensor operatively connected to said compressor enabling said compressor to automatically fill said tank with fluid and maintain pressure within said tank at a desired level.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A running board assembly as set forth in claim [[2]] 1 including a spring extending between said step and the motor vehicle urging said step to said retracted position.
4. (Original) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein said pneumatic cylinder includes a valve for fluidly communicating fluid into and out of said pneumatic cylinder.
5. (Original) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 4 including a solenoid valve for opening said tank allowing said tank to receive compressed fluids.

6. (Original) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a controller for operating said valve and said solenoid valve.
7. (Original) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said step has a valved port selectively providing access to pressurized air inside said tank.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) A running board assembly as set forth in claim [[9]] 7, wherein said operative connection is via a controller.
11. (Currently Amended) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 10, wherein the speed of said movement of said step is regulated to move at a desired rate of movement between said retracted and extended positions.
12. (Original) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 11, wherein said cylinder has a valve operatively connected to said controller, and said controller includes a sensor mounted to measure speed of said sliding movement, whereby based on signals received from said sensor, said controller responsively opens and closes said valve to regulate said speed.